

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/077,638

Applicant(s)

KAWASAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Houshang Safaipoor

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an amendment submitted on July 21, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,5-8 and 10-14.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in telephone interview with Robert K. Goethals (Reg. No. 36,813) on August 25, 2006.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings.

1. (Currently Amended) An original pressing apparatus comprising:
an original pressing plate;
a hinge unit having a first end supported rotatably with respect to said original pressing plate by a first axis and a second end rotatably supported with respect to an external device by a second axis which is parallel with said first axis; and
a press-fixing unit adapted to prevent rotation between said hinge unit and said original pressing plate, wherein said press-fixing unit comprises an elastic member to apply a biasing force to said original pressing plate and said hinge unit in an axial direction parallel with said first and second axes, wherein said press-fixing unit is capable of releasing a press-contact state.
2. (Currently Amended) The original pressing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said elastic member comprises a biasing member integrally formed with said original pressing

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plate, adapted to push said hinge unit in the axial direction of an axis rotatably supporting said hinge unit; and said press-fixing unit further comprises a receive member integrally formed with said hinge unit.

3. (Currently Amended) The original pressing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said elastic member comprises a biasing member integrally formed with said hinge unit, adapted to push said original pressing plate in the axial direction of an axis rotatably supporting said original pressing plate; and said press-fixing unit further comprises a receive member integrally formed with said original pressing plate.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The original pressing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said elastic member further applies the biasing force in a direction to bring said original pressing plate and said hinge unit to be integral with other.

6. (Original) The original pressing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said elastic member is a screw coil spring.

7. (Previously Presented) The original pressing apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a conversion unit adapted to convert the biasing force to bring said original pressing plate and said hinge unit to be integral with each other into the biasing force in the axial direction.

8. (Original) The original pressing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said conversion unit has:
a concave portion formed in said hinge unit; and
a convex portion integrally formed with said original pressing plate, engageable with said

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concave portion and releasable from engagement with said concave portion, having a projection-shaped end on the side to come into contact with said concave portion, and wherein said conversion unit performs conversion by contact between said projection-shaped end and said concave portion and thrust of said projection-shaped end on said concave portion.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The original pressing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said original pressing plate has a limitation member to limit rotation with respect to said hinge unit, and said limitation member is coupled to said original pressing plate at a position adjacent to the first end of said hinge unit.

11. (Original) An original reading apparatus having:

the original pressing apparatus in claim 1; and

a reading unit adapted to read an original pressed by said original pressing apparatus.

12. (Original) A copying apparatus having:

the original pressing apparatus in claim 1; and

a copying unit adapted to copy an original pressed by said original pressing apparatus.

13. (Original) A facsimile apparatus having:

the original pressing apparatus in claim 1;

a reading unit adapted to read an original pressed by said original pressing apparatus; and
a communication unit.

14. (Original) A complex apparatus having:

the original pressing apparatus in claim 1;

a reading unit adapted to read an original pressed by said original pressing apparatus;

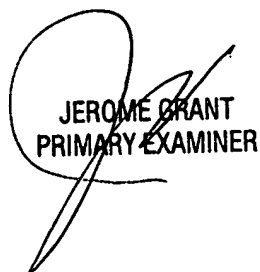
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a printing unit; and

a communication unit.



Houshang Safaipoor
Patent Examiner
August 25, 2006



JEROME GRANT
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 4 and 9 have been canceled.
2. Claims 1-3, 5-8 and 10-14 are allowed.
3. This is examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The prior art either singularly or in combination does not teach an original pressing apparatus comprising:

a hinge unit having a first end supported rotatably with respect to the original pressing plate by a first axis and a second end rotatably supported with respect to an external device by a second axis which is parallel with the first axis and

a press-fixing unit adapted to prevent rotation between the hinge unit and the original pressing plate wherein the press-fixing unit comprises an elastic member to apply a biasing force to the original pressing plate and the hinge unit in an axial direction parallel with the first and second axes (securely pressing a thick original to the platen even when the device is in an upright position), wherein the press-fixing unit is capable of releasing a press-contact state.

The features identified, in combination with other claim limitations, are neither suggested nor discussed by the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


4. *Contact Information*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Houshang Safaipoor whose telephone number is (571)272-7412. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. from 6:30am to 3:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore whose telephone number is (571)272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571)273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Houshang Safaipoor
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2625
August 25, 2006


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